

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

RARS Field Day 2010

When: Field Day is annually held on the 4th weekend in June.

Setup: Friday, June 25 @ 2pm

Field Day Begins: Saturday, June 26 @ 2pm

Field Day Ends: Sunday, June 27 @ 2pm

Where: Jim and Beth Carroll, N4CAE and KF4QMR, are graciously hosting RARS Field Day at 4501 Friendship Road. Visit <http://rars.org/fieldday/> for directions.

Who: You! New ham, long inactive or no license at all? Visit the [GOTA](#) station. Aided by experienced hams, this station is the place to get your feet wet. With an easy-going pace and gentle guidance, it's the place to experience the excitement of field day and have your questions answered.

If you want to help with one of the bands, setup, operating or tear down, contact the appropriate band captain as listed on <http://rars.org/fieldday/>. If you have a field day or two under your belt and are looking for an opportunity to help new hams, please contact [Gary KN4AQ](#). He's looking for help with the [GOTA](#) station.

Tell me more! Find out more about Field Day on the RARS website: <http://rars.org/fieldday/>.

Next RARS Meeting: June 1

7:30 PM: "Field Day 2010 Update" by
Mike Murphy WA4BPJ.

The meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

RARS OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

Karl Bowman
W4CHX
919.669.6068
w4chx@arrl.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Justin Pinnix
AJ4MJ
919.832.1188
justin@fuzzythinking.com

SECRETARY

Charles Swindell
WB4DCM
919.848.0410
wb4dcm@arrl.net

TREASURER

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
ke4pax@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

June Birthdays

| | | |
|---------|--------|------|
| Bob | KIRCB | 6/1 |
| Dan | AC8DH | 6/1 |
| Gwen | KF4EUT | 6/5 |
| Shelby | NC4SH | 6/6 |
| Rick | N4VQT | 6/7 |
| Kurt | N4KJK | 6/8 |
| Kelly | AE4FG | 6/8 |
| David | N4ZJT | 6/10 |
| Charles | NZ0I | 6/11 |
| Wayne | KD4SLQ | 6/19 |
| William | W4AK | 6/21 |
| Bobbie | KD4ZVW | 6/22 |
| Lanny | KILEC | 6/24 |
| Marian | K1MRB | 6/24 |
| Ron | KJ4ROP | 6/27 |

Upcoming Hamfests

| | |
|------|--|
| 6/5 | GA Section Convention Marietta, GA http://talipsky.com/AtlantaHamfest/ |
| 6/12 | Knoxville Hamfest & Electronics Expo Knoxville, TN http://www.discoveret.org/rack/ |
| 6/12 | The Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest Winston-Salem, NC http://www.w4nc.com/ |
| 6/13 | The Manassas Hamfest Manassas, VA http://www.w4ovh.net/ |
| 6/19 | 20th Down East Hamfest Kinston, NC http://www.downeasthamfest.org/ |

April 2010

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 495

Traffic: 40/30

Minutes: 620

Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets:

Checkins: 110

Minutes: 610

Sessions: 12

New RARS Members

Austin Page

AJ4VK

Blair Christian

No License

April 20, 2010 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Karl W4CHX, John AI4RT, Chuck K4HF, Mary Jo K4MJL, Gary KN4AQ, Justin AJ4MJ, Greg KE4PAX, Ken KI4OTO, and Charles WB4DCM.

Visitors: David KF4VXJ, Jack N6UYB, and Larry K4LXV

Apologies: Don WA4AVU, Virginia NC4VA

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Karl W4CHX at 7:03 PM.
2. Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS Board of Director's meeting on March 16, 2010 were approved as written.
3. Vice President's report: Vice President Justin AJ4MJ reported that in March we collected \$38 in donations for the snacks and expended \$34. Programs have now been lined up for the remainder of the year. The May program will be Alan Victor W4AMV on receiver design.
4. Treasurer's report: Treasurer Greg KE4PAX reported that RARS now has 254 members. All expenses for the RARSFest have not been received yet. Our budget is looking good.
5. Secretary's report: Secretary Charles WB4DCM thanked everyone for their input to the minutes.
6. Committee reports:
 - a. Public Service Director (John Snellen AI4RT): Advises that we have several upcoming events: April 24 Saturday 2010 CAM Relay for Life; June 5 & 6 Saturday and Sunday ADA Tour de Cure; June 19 Saturday Blanche's MS Ice Cream Ride; and June 26 Saturday Chatham County ride for Habitat.
 - b. Public Information Officer (Gary Pearce KN4AQ): no report.
 - c. Education Director (Virginia Enzor, NC4VA): Based on her email communication to Karl W4CHX, there was nothing to report.
 - d. Field Day Chair (Mike Murphy WA4BPJ): No report.
 - e. FM Repeater Chair (Gary Pearce KN4AQ): UHF 443.625 repeater with a tone of 88.5 is back on the air.
 - f. RARSFest Chair (John Snellen AI4RT): On Monday, April 26, the RARSFest committee will meet to review and discuss the fest. There will be a volunteers party on May 8 at Crabtree Park.
 - g. Exciter Chair (Courtney Enzor KI4HOS): No report.
 - h. Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL): No report
 - i. Net Manager (Mary Holtschneider, KG4OQA): No report

(Continued on next page)

- j. ARRL Liaison (Chuck Littlewood K4HF): Has received lots of feedback about the RARSFest and it is positive. Tim Slay has done a great job and will act as an ASM.
- k. At-Large Director (Don Downs, WA4AVU): Based on his email communication to Karl W4CHX, there was nothing to report.
- l. At-Large Director (Ken McEwen, KI4OTO): No report
- m. At-Large Director (Steve Ferrarini, KJ4BX): No report
- n. W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO): No report
- o. RARS VE Coordinators (Joe White WA4GIR, Liz White KO4CK): no report. Karl W4CHX commented that the VE worked good at the RARSFest. There was brief discussion about making a donation for the use of the building.
- p. RARS Webmaster (Hank Montgomery K4HM): Advised that traffic on our web site picked up dramatically during March. He has made some minor changes to the web site.

7. Old Business:

- a. RARS bank account: Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that we now have moved our accounts to Wachovia. He is still looking for better interest rates.
- b. RARS repeater technical group: Gary KN4AQ advised that he would like to hold a meeting of the group on Tuesday, April 25. The meeting will be at the TRRS.

8. New Business:

- a. Fundraising effort to support RARS participation in ARRL Field Day 2010: David KF4VXJ has drafted a letter to send to potential donors soliciting items for field day. He is looking for food type items to reduce the costs to RARS. After much discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to proceed. The next issue was the letter itself. The wording was corrected and a motion, second, and approval was given the final draft letter. Some years ago, a "white paper" was developed that outlined what RARS is and does. Some minor tweaking was done to that paper. A motion, second, and approval of the paper and to include a copy with our solicitation letters.
- b. Possible donation of battery backup power supply: These items are very heavy and would require extensive disassembly and moving. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to decline.
- c. Possible donation of portable cellular telephone towers: These items require lots of maintenance and that status is not known. In communications with ARES and other groups, they expressed no interest. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to decline.

(Continued on next page)

- d. Possible donation/removal of 40 foot antenna tower and related items (Jim Wisdom K4HCG-SK): This antenna and tower are attached to a residence and are about 20 years old. RARS as such, would probably have no use for them. However, Karl W4CHX, Jack N6UYB and Ken KI4OTO will examine the items for further consideration.
- e. Wire for sale: Greg KE4PAX advised that someone has wire to sell. He will advise that person to list on the web site.
- f. Draft RARS Budget 2010-2011: Treasurer Greg KE4PAX has developed a draft budget for 2010-2011. There was discussion about capital projects, RARSFest expenses, and other issues. The final budget should be presented to the club at the June meeting.

9. Board Member's Comments:

- a. President Karl W4CHX reminded everyone that the Golden Coral will be closed for a few months for renovations. We will meet at the Hibachi Grill, 3131 Capital Blvd (near CompUSA).
- b. VP Justin AJ4MJ is looking for feedback on the programs. He does not want them to get too technical.
- c. Ken KI4OTO advised that he has some info on charitable giving.
- d. Hank K4HM advised that a GPS had been left on the RARS table. A note will be placed in the EXCITER to claim or it will be sold.
- e. John AI4RT expressed a concern for a lack of interest in our activities by the newer members. Ken KI4OTO suggested a buddy system. Next, John asked about the "stars" on the web for those persons who had participated in public service. He suggested that they be replaced with certificates.
- f. Treasurer Greg KE4PAX expressed concern about directing possible donors to our web page as it seemed to reflect too much social life and not enough public service.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by President Karl W4CHX at 9:03 PM.

May 4, 2010 RARS General Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:29 PM by Karl W4CHX. All VE Examiners were requested to go to the other building to assist in giving the exams.
2. Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership on April 6, 2010 were approved as written. The President noted that the minutes were titled "Board" minutes and that would be corrected.
3. Vice President's report (Justin AJ4MJ): the next meeting will be June 1. and the program will be on Field Day and presented by Mike Murphy WA4BPJ.
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): RARS now has 256 members. All of the expenses from RARSFest have not been received, but things are looking OK at this point.
5. Announcements:
 - a. RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, May 11th, 6:30 PM, Hibachi Grill, 3131 Capital Blvd; behind Outback Steakhouse, next to CompUSA; 1 mile north of I-440 Beltline; check 146.64 repeater for any update information.
 - b. Poll for RARS dinner: since Golden Corral is going to be closed temporarily, we need your input on places to try for the next several months; please use the poll for this purpose which is on the home page of the RARS website; key points to consider in your recommendation: up to 25 diners may be present, the cost of the meal should be inexpensive, buffet-style food selection is preferred, and availability of a private room is preferred; this could lead to a permanent change in location for future RARS dinners.
 - c. RARS Board meeting: third Tuesday May 18th, 7:00 PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Road, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.
 - d. After meeting gathering: Applebee's, junction of Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco)
 - e. Guests: Joe Spears AF1E of Conover, a QCWA member, attended.
2. Presentation (Ms. Haley Transou, MS Bike Ride Representative): Ms. Transou came to the front and made a few brief comments. She thanked RARS for our support of the New Bern event in which our participation was essential. John AI4RT was given a plaque. Dick KD4ISC was given a personal plaque for his help and participation.
3. Reports from RARS Board members and others:

(Continued on next page)

- a. John AI4RT advised that the volunteer appreciation party for those folks that participated in RARSFest would be held on Saturday, May 8 at Lake Crabtree. Bring a dish to share.
- b. John AI4RT Public Service Coordinator announced that there were no events for May. However, we have many for June. Tour de Cure, MS Ride, Chatham County Habitat for Humanity and others. Please go to the RARS web page for more details.
- c. Mike WA4BPJ Field Day Chair advised that field day is coming on June 26 and 27. It will be at the same location as in the past few years. RARS will probably be 7A or 8A. Everyone was encouraged to participate and join us for supper.
- d. Chuck K4HF asked all to be sure to sign up at the back table and complete a slip for the door prize drawings. He also has some frequency charts and RARS patches and decals. He announced that Charlie W4BFJ has old QST and CQ magazines looking for a home.

4. Any other business: Mike KB7NLA stood up and made request that RARS support 2-PAWS UP, an animal rescue shelter. Further, he advised that Chili's Restaurant is donating 10% of it profit to Chance/2-PAWS UP, and suggested that we dine there.

5. Drawing: Charlie WA4OSS and Joe W4TTO.

6. Chuck K4HF took the floor and made a few brief comments about QCWA. He then called Ken KI4OTO to the front and presented him with his 50 year certificate (having been licensed as an amateur radio operator for 50 Years).

7. Program: VP Justin KJ4MJ began the introduction of our speaker. Alan Victor W4AMV is a member of the local QRP club and just recently completed his PhD in Electrical Engineering at NC State. His main thrust is receiver design. Alan took the floor and went through a detail presentation on receivers and their design. As always, it was an excellent presentation.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM by Karl W4CHX.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

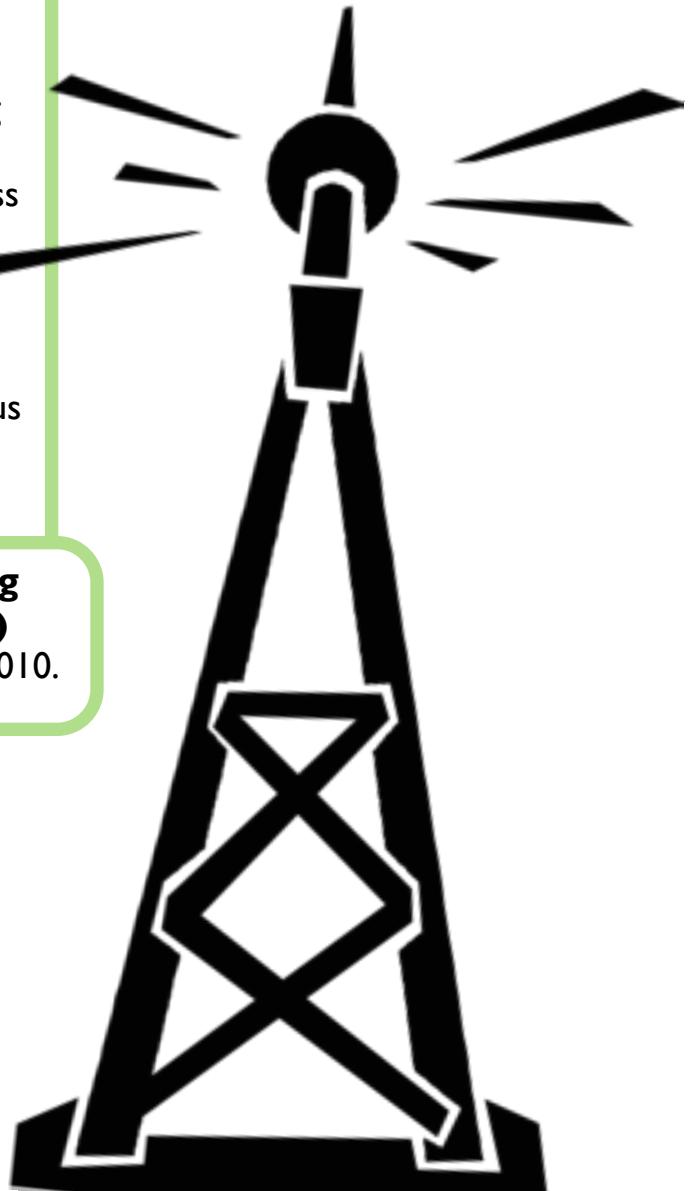
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

FYI: The **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** has been discontinued as of January 2010.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

**Looking for the latest in
public service opportunities?
Visit www.rars.org to find
out about upcoming events
and sign up.**

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, NC 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130